

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – October 10, 2011

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher, Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Rich Gerard, and Chele Miller. Margaret Rieser and Bob Seston were absent.

Approval of Minutes – 09/12/2011 minutes. The Administrative Assistant explained that the section containing wetland matters was unintentionally left out of the draft minutes for 09/12/2011. The text that should be inserted between *Easement Monitoring* and *Committee Reports* is as follows:

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Special Use Permit application – Map 411/Lot 35.6. Nelson explained that Ned has walked it; the application is for a driveway; the jurisdictional area is a small wooded wetland; it will have relatively minimal impact. The question is does it need Wetlands Committee review? Batch commented that he reviewed the plans and feels that if done as drawn it shouldn't need a full review by the Wetlands Committee. Agreed by TCC to tell the Planning Board that the Commission has no comments concerning the application.

Prime wetlands – Ned informed Larry Grace that the TCC will not be making any effort to change local Prime Wetlands designations and recommended that Mr. Grace work with his forester to submit a forestry notification application to DES with a waiver request attached. Ned sent letter to the forester regarding this (file copy available). The letter expressed willingness to help with application.

Nelson moved to accept the draft minutes with the inclusion of the Wetlands text. Batch seconded. Motion carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Conservation Fund statement for August 2011 shows an end-of-month balance of \$57,230.56; \$440.00 was expended for payment to Paul King for easement stewardship work on the Perkins easement (land surveying). Annual budget expenditures to date are \$2526.46, plus Admin. Asst. wages accrued amount about \$750. No word from Selectmen concerning 2012 proposed budget; a review meeting will likely be scheduled in the next two months.

Announcements –

1. NHACC annual meeting – November 5 in Concord. Rich plans to attend. Ned will make sure that everyone has up-to-date contact info for NHACC email announcements.
2. Taking Action for Wildlife program – Oct 19 in Madison. Ned and Chele each hope to be able to attend.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters – Planning Board approved Posner wetland application (Map 411/Lot 35.6).

Landfill Monitoring – Batch and Nelson intend to perform the semiannual monitoring in November.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Public Education and Outreach – Five more Hikin' Heron challenge forms have been received. This makes a total of eleven people who have completed the challenge. Ned suggested that a follow-up promotion be put in the TamworthExchange. The Admin. Asst. will do this, and also post a list of challenge completers on the TCC web site. Chele is willing to continue processing completed forms.

Conservation Lands Review Committee – Proposed conservation easement - cooperation

with SPNHF. TCC has been approached by Tom Howe concerning the Reich property (Map 414, Lot 17). Owned by two brothers. Tom Howard is acting as their agent. Offered easement on entire property as gift to SPNHF with the condition that they will have no expenses in the transaction. Tom Howe wants to know if TCC will partner (pitch in) with SPNHF. Lot is 103 acres, forested. Total cost of transaction is estimated at 30 – 35 thousand dollars. Tom suggested that TCC pay for survey; \$15,000 estimated, maybe less. CLRC recommends that TCC go ahead with this. Town would hold executory interest. Discussion: Survey should be put out to bid. MOU with landowners would be good prior to committing to the winning bidder. Any standards required for survey? Ned will check with Tom Howe. Set completion date in bid process. Need public hearing because town would acquire legal interest in property (10 day notice). Post November Commission meeting as public hearing, discuss bids, vote on expenditure. Nelson moved that TCC solicit survey bids. Chele seconded. Motion carried. Ned will get on Selectmen's meeting agenda (October 20th).

Easement Monitoring

1. Community School Easement – October 1 deadline for plan for removal of infringing materials. Nelson visited in mid September, just one sheet-metal part there. Ned will drop in and visit with the landowner.
2. Annual Inspections – progress report/reminder. Ned and Rich will meet 8 am on Saturday. State forms on web can be used, just change the year. Easement monitoring assignments were confirmed.
3. Alt easement – SPNHF granted the landowner an extension until June to remove the infringing tower.

Managed Lands and Trails

1. Fall clean-up work (mailboxes, etc.) Mailboxes will come down around November 1 (thanks Batch!). Nelson reports that Tropical Storm Irene caused minimum damage to trails; taken care of.
2. Big Pines sign down – Bob Hardy is checking it out; State will fix it. They might want some assistance from TCC.
3. Should TCC adopt maintenance of Bearcamp River Trail, at least on F & G land? Town has been asked by F&G. Discussion: Trail on F&G property would not be difficult to maintain; trail on Community School property would need some major work. Agreed to contact F&G and ask for letter of authorization to maintain the HH-WMA section of Bearcamp River Trail, as Ned has discussed with F & G.

Other Business – No other business was raised.

Adjourn – Batch moved; Nelson seconded, motion carried 8:44 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.